

AN OSCILLATING, STEERABLE, SURGICAL BURRING TOOL AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME

Abstract of the Disclosure

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The invention is an oscillating, high speed burring instrument comprised of a handpiece, an elongate arthroscopic catheter extending distally from handpiece and terminating in a flexible or hinged portion which itself terminates with an oscillating burr. At least the distal portion of torsional drive shaft is radially flexible to accommodate the flexibility of the flexible or hinged portion of the catheter. A high speed oscillation of the burr is employed effective for cutting or abrading bone, which is typically oscillated at 10 kHz or higher. The burr is oscillated over a substantial arc, namely a majority portion of a full circle. The burr is not shielded in any manner and is fully exposed to the operational theater. The burr cuts or abrades bone or hard matter, while leaving softer tissues substantially or entirely undamaged.

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